



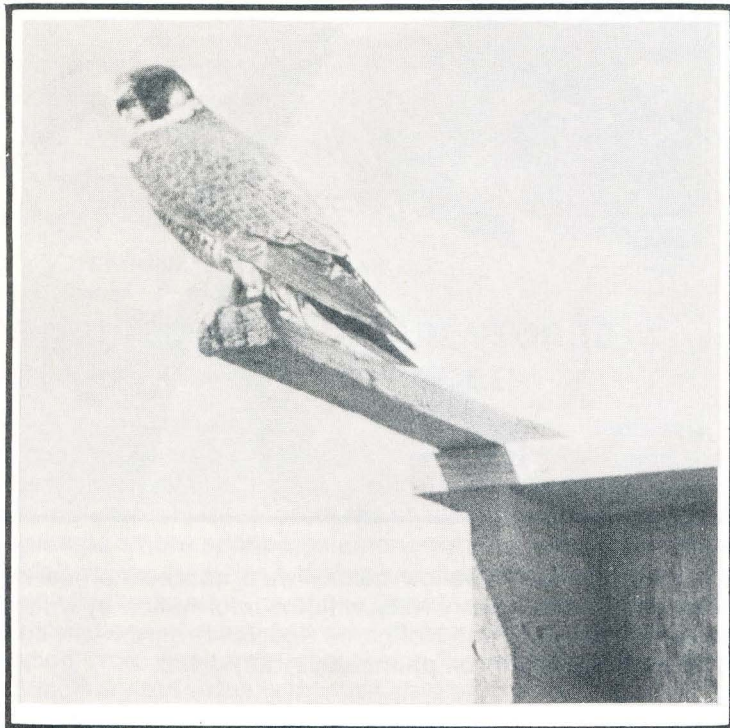
Nongame News



Summer 1985

Record Numbers of Peregrines Return

A recently completed survey conducted by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program indicates that the endangered Peregrine Falcon has returned to New Jersey in record numbers this spring. A total of 26 Peregrines have been spotted by observers at fifteen different locations throughout the state. This is testimony to the fact that the Peregrine has made a dramatic comeback here in the Garden State.



The birds have been showing up at many of the specially constructed nesting towers located on state wildlife management areas, on many of the larger bridges around the state and at such unlikely places as the rooftop of the Golden Nugget Casino-Hotel in Atlantic City. Unlikely to us, but not so to the Peregrines. In New Jersey, Peregrines historically nested high on the cliffs of the Palisades on the Hudson River. The man-made structures obviously provide a suitable substitute to nesting Peregrines.

The project to restore the Peregrine Falcon as a breeding bird in New Jersey began in 1975 under a cooperative agreement with the Peregrine Fund of Cornell University and

the Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Over a period of 7 years, fifty-five Peregrines were hacked into the wilds of New Jersey. Now the project is paying real dividends as the Peregrine is again nesting and producing young. The project goal was to establish from 8 to 10 breeding pairs in the state. Results from the recent survey indicate that we may reach this goal in 1985.

1985 Peregrine Falcon Summary

LOCATION	NUMBER OBSERVED
Barnegat	Four birds
Betsy Ross Bridge	Pair
Brigantine	Pair, incubating
Brigantine Bridge	Female
Commodore Barry Bridge	One bird
Egg Island	One bird, egg present
Forsythe NWR	Pair
Golden Nugget	Pair
Heislerville WMA	Pair
Manahawkin	Three females
Marmora WMA	Pair
Ocean Gate	Pair, incubating
Outerbridge Crossing	Female
Sea Isle City	Pair, incubating
Sedge Island WMA	Pair with young
Swan Bay WMA	Pair with young
Tuckahoe WMA	Pair with young
Tuckerton	Pair

OSPREY REINTRODUCTION PLANNED FOR NORTH JERSEY

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program of the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife is beginning a project to reestablish a breeding population of Osprey in northern New Jersey where the birds once occurred but have since declined due to pesticide contamination. Program biologists will be transferring Osprey chicks from healthy New Jersey coastal nests to artificial nesting platforms on a lake in North Jersey where Osprey were known to breed in the 1930's.

The Osprey chicks' new home will be a lake in Passaic

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Endangered and Nongame Species Program

INDIANS MAY KILL ENDANGERED ANIMALS, COURT SAYS

A ruling issued earlier this year by the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals states that Indians may kill endangered species and any other wildlife they choose on reservation lands, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service arrested a number of Indians last year for killing more than 200 bald eagles in South Dakota and Nebraska. The defendants also were charged with selling parts of the birds as native American artifacts. The Endangered Species Act prohibits killing and selling of endangered animals.

A Federal court convicted the Indians of the killing and selling charges. Four of the Indians subsequently appealed

their conviction to the 8th Circuit which reversed part of the lower court's decision.

By a 5-3 vote, the appeals court said that the Indians have treaty rights to hunt on reservations as they please. This, the court said, includes the right to kill endangered species or any other form of wildlife. However, the court said, Indians do not have the right to sell any parts of the animals, thus the lower court's conviction for selling the artifacts will stand. The appeals court indicated that the only way to stop Indians from killing endangered species or other wildlife at will is to abrogate the treaties to that effect.

CLIFF SWALLOW SIGN ERECTED

Pedestrians crossing the Delaware River on the Lambertville-New Hope Free Bridge from the New Jersey side will now be greeted by a beautiful, full-color interpretive sign identifying the state's largest known colony of endangered Cliff Swallows. The sign, provided by the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, from the "Income Tax Check-Off for Wildlife", was permanently mounted to the bridge on Thursday, April 11, in cooperation with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC).

Local Hunterdon County wildlife artist Doreen Curtin created the original artwork and design for the sign.

The sign calls attention to the colony of Cliff Swallows below the bridge and contains information about this endangered New Jersey bird.

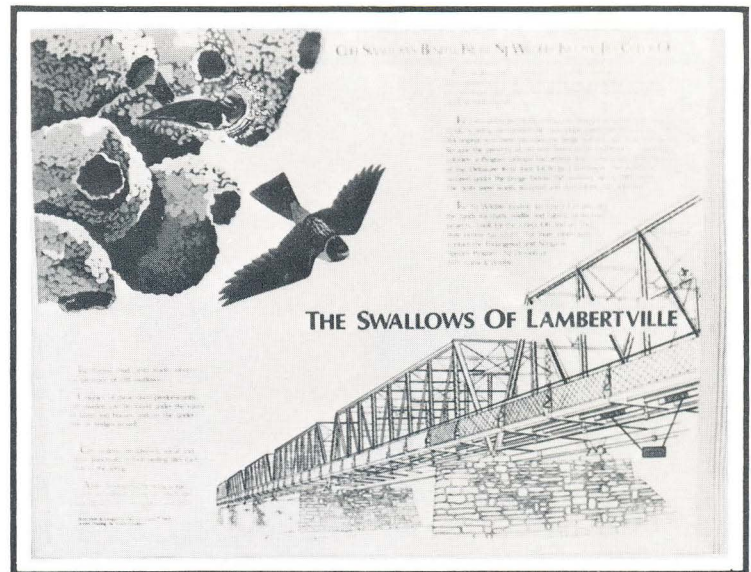
The Lambertville colony was discovered in 1982 just prior to the start of scheduled repair work to the bridge. The colony may have been destroyed if the repair work had started as planned. However, officials of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission were eager to cooperate and delayed their work until fall when the swallows had migrated south. The loss of this colony would have been devastating since our surveys show the Lambertville and Bull's Island colonies contain about 85 percent of the state's population.

In 1983 the Endangered and Nongame Species Program mounted artificial nests on the bridge to replace the natural nests which had to be removed for repair work. The effort proved successful when the swallows returned to the site and used the artificial nests.

Cliff Swallow colonies are generally found on bridges and the sides of buildings and barns. Surveys conducted over the past 3 years have revealed only 9 colonies statewide. Fewer farms, where the birds nest and feed, and the introduction of nest stealing English Sparrows have contributed to the plight of New Jersey's Cliff Swallows.

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program will be initiating a new project this year in efforts to manage the colonies. Artificial nests will be placed at known colony sites just prior to the arrival of the swallows. It is hoped that this will reduce the competition for nest sites between English Sparrows and Cliff Swallows. The artificial nests will be removed at the end of the nesting season and stored until the following year.

Due to the difficulty in locating the colonies, Program zoologists feel that many go unnoticed. If you know the



location of a Cliff Swallow colony we'd appreciate hearing from you. Contact Larry Niles with the information by writing to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625, or phone (609) 292-9400.

Nongame News

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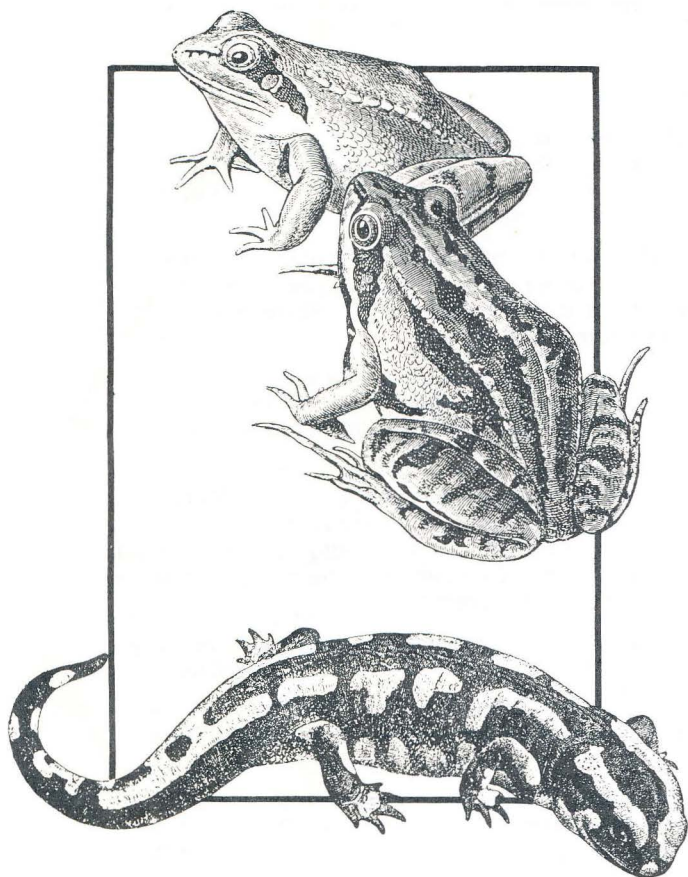
Contributors

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AMPHIBIAN HABITAT RESTORED, AMPHIBIANS INTRODUCED

Since 1978 personnel at the Greenbrook Sanctuary, a 66ha nature preserve on top of New Jersey's Palisades, have been involved in a project to restore breeding sites for early spring amphibians. Most of the shallow woodland ponds and swamps where spotted salamanders and wood frogs breed each spring had been drying out and succumbing to more terrestrial habitats over the years, resulting in decreased populations of these two amphibians on the Palisades. The wood frog was once a common breeder in Greenbrook Sanctuary but virtually disappeared after the droughts of the mid-1960's.

Four former prime breeding sites were selected for restoration in the sanctuary. The average size of each of these vernal ponds is 10m x 7m. Three were deepened by hand, and the fourth using heavy equipment, to depths of 0.6-1m. Two of the sites were also lined with sheets of 20 mil vinyl to prevent seepage and penetration by roots of woody plants. Finally, egg masses of the two amphibians were reintroduced from nearby areas starting in 1978 and augmented the following two years.

Preliminary results indicate the project has so far been an unqualified success as both species of amphibians now breed in each site in good numbers. The numbers of egg masses of wood frog and spotted salamander deposited in three of these sites in the spring of 1983 (the fourth site was not prepared until 1984) were: 37 and 20; 4 and 8; and 13 and 17. The sites also have aquatic insects, algae, and newts.

FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1980 DUE TO EXPIRE

The Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee and the Nongame Wildlife Association of North America advises of a threat to the future of nongame work in the United States. As funds in most of the 32 Check-Off states are being challenged and depleted by competing Check-Offs, Federal funding becomes increasingly critical. But the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 which authorizes Federal aid to states has never been funded. This year it expires and must be reauthorized by September 30, 1985. Additionally, funding sources have been identified through a comprehensive study conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is time for legislation that would provide for equitable and effective funding of the Act. Your letter to Washington can make a difference. Voice your support for reauthorization of the Act and subsequent funding immediately:

The Honorable John B. Breaux, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife
Conservation and the Environment
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
and to

The Honorable John H. Chafee, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Public
Works
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

For more information on the Act and proposed funding sources, contact the Endangered and Nongame Species Program or Richard Ryan, Chairman, Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee, NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.

NONGAME CHARGES ARISE FROM "GAME THIEF" REPORT

An anonymous tip reported through New Jersey's Operation Game Thief Program has resulted in 10 charges placed against the owner of the Cape Taxidermy Shop in Burleigh, Middle Township, Cape May County.

The owner, Wilson Guthrie, Sr., was charged with illegally possessing the remains of 10 protected nongame species, including two Barred Owls, one Black Ibis, one Least Bittern, one Great-horned Owl, two Sparrow Hawks, two Screech Owls and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Mr. Guthrie has pleaded guilty to the charges and was fined \$500.00 plus \$100.00 in court costs.

The investigation resulted from a tip received by conservation officers of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and the subsequent investigation was a cooperative effort between the Division and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Operation Game Thief is a program established two years ago in an effort to cut down on wildlife violations in paying cash rewards up to \$200.00 for tips which result in charges being filed. Persons wishing to report such violations may call the toll-free number 1-800-222-0456. Anonymity of the informant is guaranteed.



Dear Supporter,

While the State's Division of Taxation continues to tally results, preliminary figures show that donations to the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund are down significantly this year. With approximately 85% of the returns processed, it appears that donations to the Fund will be down by about 15% compared to last year.

For four years now, you have eagerly supported the Check-Off for wildlife found on line 37B of the state tax form. Income from the Check-Off had grown from the \$410,000.00 collected during the first year, to a high of \$481,000.00 collected last year. This year, however, funding has slipped and estimates indicate that \$415,000.00 will have been collected when processing has been completed this year.

This slip in funding comes at a time when things are looking bleak for the Program on a different front. State legislators recently passed a bill creating a check-off for abused children which will appear on the tax form next year. Based on data gathered from other states, this will result in an even more significant decline in funding for next year.

What will this mean to your state Endangered and Nongame Species Program? Across-the-board cutbacks in services, personnel and research. Several vacancies within the Program will not be filled so that the current level of research and management projects can be maintained. Over 65 projects are currently being conducted by Program personnel or by researchers under contract with the Program. Every effort will be made to continue this valuable work although it will necessitate cuts in other aspects of the Program.

Certain public services will have to be curtailed such as group lectures, film production, and the production and distribution of educational/informational materials available to the public. The Nongame News will no longer be a quarterly publication, but will be published bi-annually.

The cutbacks also necessitate that the Program lose a regional zoologist and go from the current three regional zoologists to two statewide.

In an additional effort to maintain the current level of research, management and protection for the state's endangered and nongame wildlife, the Program will attempt to solicit outside funding sources. Such funding could help support wildlife projects which would otherwise have to be discontinued.

Next year, the Program will be asking each and all of our supporters, more than ever, to help spread the word about the Tax Check-Off for Wildlife. Remember that the continuance of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program depends entirely on your public support through donations, no state appropriation or tax money is devoted to this agency.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Frier-Murza Program Manager
Endangered and Nongame Species Program

EAGLE PROJECT UPDATE

New Jersey's only nesting pair of bald eagles made their annual return to the 80 foot pond pine tree in Cumberland County earlier this year. Observers reported that the pair was back at the historic nest site by early February. The first signs of incubation by the pair occurred about a month later on March 5.

It wasn't long after the first signs of incubation that Program biologists Larry Niles and Warren Kell readied themselves for the annual egg swap. On March 26 Warren Kell donned the climbing gear and after about 40 minutes the two eggs were on their way to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland for hatching. Two plaster egg replicas were left in their places to keep the eagle pair incubating and to prevent them from abandoning the nest.

When the eggs reached Patuxent they were immediately candled and found to be fertile. However, one showed signs of spot thinning and contained a large air cell. For this

reason it was decided that this egg be placed in an incubator. The other egg shell appeared thick enough and was incubated by a Cochin Bantam hen.

During the approximately 35 day incubation period the egg in the incubator developed a crack just from its own weight resting on the incubator rack. Patuxent researchers quickly sealed the crack using wax and glue. Their imaginative efforts paid off as both eggs hatched by mid-April. The first egg hatched on April 9 and the second followed on April 12. Due to the age and size differences between the 2 birds they could not be placed back into the nest for fear that sibling competition would result in the smaller bird not surviving.

In past years it was common practice to separate the chicks under these circumstances and replace one with a captive-bred eaglet of similar size. This year there were no eaglets available that were of the same size and age of either of the New Jersey chicks, so on April 20 two captive bred eaglets were placed in the New Jersey nest. "This switch will

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BROWN PELICANS REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST IN SOUTHEASTERN STATES

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently reported that the Brown Pelican is well again, and has become the first species to recover from the devastating effects of DDT to the point where it can be removed from the United States endangered species list.

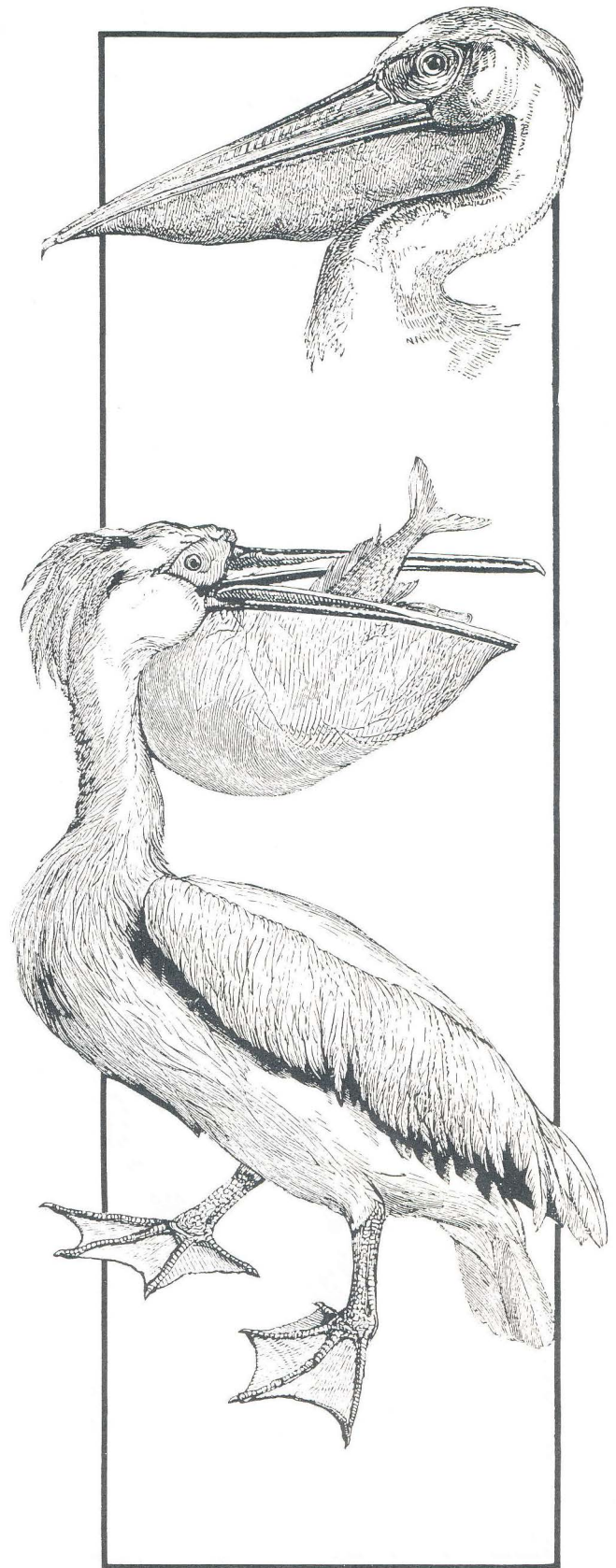
The Pelican in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina, and points northward along the Atlantic Coast, no longer needs the protections of the Federal Endangered Species Act, according to Interior Secretary William Clark.

The removal does not affect Brown Pelicans in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, California, Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies, however, where the species is still classified as "endangered," Clark said.

The Brown Pelican's recovery is due mainly to the decreasing effects of DDT and other pesticides, which caused the bird's decline through both direct poisoning and interference in its reproductive process. Brown Pelicans are particularly sensitive to pesticides, and the phenomenon of egg-shell thinning from chemical contamination, documented in other bird species, was especially devastating to these large marine birds.

"The Brown Pelican was jeopardized by pesticide contamination, and its recovery is testimony to the resiliency of the species and the efforts of Federal and State wildlife agencies and private conservation groups to assist that recovery by protecting the bird's rookeries," said Clark. "We're optimistic about the chances for the Brown Pelican's recovery in the rest of its range, as well."

The Brown Pelican was listed as an endangered species throughout its range in 1970. Since the Environmental Protection Agency's ban on the use of DDT in the United States in 1972 and the restrictions placed on other pesticides, the species has shown a gradual recovery and biologists have noted a corresponding decrease in chemical contaminants in pelican eggs. Annual censuses of the Brown Pelican in the Southeast now indicate stable or increasing breeding populations in Florida and the Carolinas and also appears on the increase in other states. They have been seen several times in New Jersey in recent years.



PROGRAM ASSISTS NATIONAL WILDLIFE ORGANIZATION

Jo Ann Frier-Murza, Endangered and Nongame Species Program Manager, was recently appointed to serve on the Endangered Species Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The committee provides input to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by evaluating and making recommendations on items published in the Federal Register regarding the Endangered Species Act and CITES and other issues relating to endangered species.

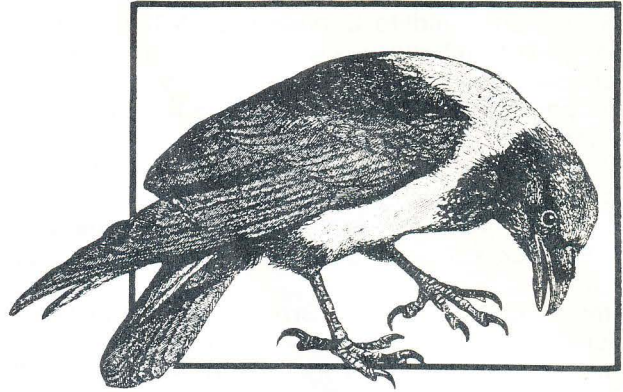
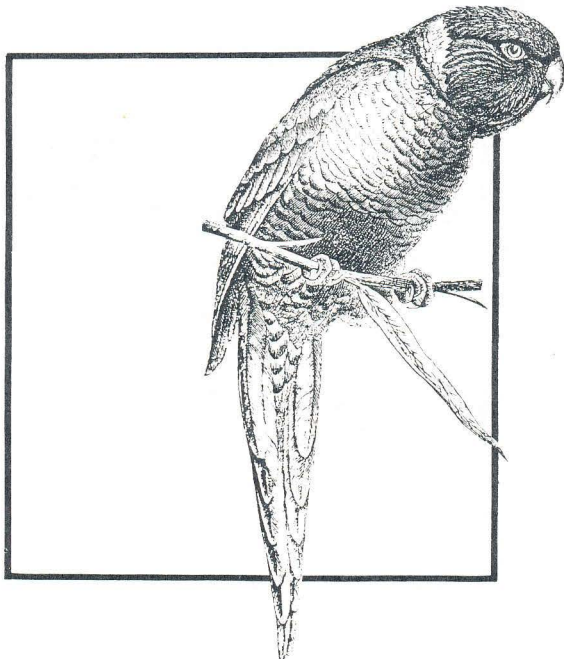
Jo Ann Frier-Murza continues to serve as Secretary of the Nongame Wildlife Association of North America.

THE RIGHT WAY TO HELP WILDLIFE

Have you ever found a fledgling bird under its nest after a storm? Remember that clunk against the living room window and the dazed robin that resulted? Does your cat bring in maimed birds with twisted wings and legs? These are all common occurrences that probably everyone has experienced and everyone wonders what to do about. Some people bring the bird into the house and try do-it-yourself remedies. Others trundle the birds off to the nearest veterinarian, who very often is perplexed by having to try to treat an animal he or she has never seen before. Very often too, the bird is put out of its misery by the person who finds it. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program wants to help those who find injured wildlife decide what to do. This will not only increase the chances of survival for the animal, but will keep that person from unknowingly violating any laws.

The rehabilitation of most birds requires both federal and state permits, while mammal rehabilitation requires only a state permit. Department of Environmental Protection maintains a current list of licensed rehabilitators that can accept injured birds and mammals for care. Many of our rehabilitators have reached a high level of expertise and can set bones, administer antibiotics, establish diets and exercise programs necessary to prepare the animal for release to the wild. Very often the amateur attempts of the public to assist injured wildlife, though well-meaning, result in the sure death or permanent crippling of an animal which, in the right hands, may have survived to be released back to the wild. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program currently provides a reference service for people who find injured wildlife.

Persons finding injured wildlife can call any of the regional offices of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program to obtain the names of the licensed rehabilitators in their area. So remember, the next time you want to help that injured cardinal or chipmunk, your best effort might be to simply make a phone call.



SEEN ANY WEIRD WILDLIFE LATELY?

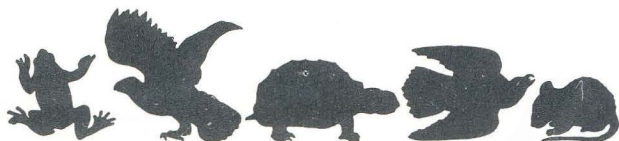
Believe it or not, there are parrots nesting in New Jersey. According to Paul Kalka of the Endangered Species Program, there may be other oddities surviving in the wild also. Reports of wolves, large cats, cobras and other exotics are not uncommon. Some of these reports are confirmed. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife would like to start compiling records of these occurrences to help them determine which exotics might be surviving in the wild. The state also would like to know what kinds of animals are escaping or are purposefully being released.

The Program is asking anyone who sees strange wildlife to report it. Especially interesting are records of exotic animals breeding in the state. A good example of this is the breeding of the Monk Parakeet, or Quaker Conure as it is also known. This small parrot is a native of South America. As such, you'd think it wouldn't find these latitudes hospitable. The opposite is true in fact, and they have been found breeding much farther north than New Jersey.

"Many escaped exotics become pests of one sort or another," claims Kalka. Occasionally they compete with our native wildlife with disastrous results. They can introduce or spread disease to native wildlife or domestic animals or they can become agricultural pests. We have heard that one type of African clawed frog has become established in certain waters in Virginia. It reportedly is wiping out all aquatic life small enough to eat, and these frogs have huge appetites.

Some escaped birds, such as some of the parrots, choose to nest in holes in trees. They then become competitors for nest sites with our native cavity-nesters. Considering that some cavity nesting birds are already having problems due to firewood cutting and those two established exotics, the Starling and House Sparrow, further competition could have serious effects on native populations.


While wolves and other potentially dangerous animals are usually escapees or releases and not really an ongoing problem, the smaller exotics obviously can cause some headaches. Just ask the homeowner who has had his fruit or corn eaten by a Nanday Conure, another small exotic parrot. If you are such a person or even if you have just seen a parrot or ferret or other exotic in the wild, please contact the Endangered Species Program. Our wildlife, or even your garden, might depend on it.



WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION TEACHER'S PACS AVAILABLE

The National Institute for Urban Wildlife (NIUW) has announced the availability of a series of eight (8) Wildlife Habitat Conservation Education Teachers Pacs. The "Pacs" were originally developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and have already been used effectively as tools for providing conservation information for schools.

The "Pacs" have recently been updated and are being published by the NIUW under an agreement with the USF&WS and partially funded by a grant from Exxon Company, USA. The "Pacs" are targeted at the fourth through seventh grade levels.

The topics of the eight pacs include: URBAN AREAS, FRESHWATER MARSHES, BEACHES, DUNES AND BARRIER ISLANDS, WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND USES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, MIGRATING BIRDS, HUNTING & WILDLIFE CONFLICTS and WILDLIFE CONFLICTS. Each pac includes a two-sided poster, teacher's overview, 3 lesson plans, student centered pages and a folder. The pacs can be ordered using the form provided below. 

URBAN WILDLIFE GUIDES AVAILABLE

The National Institute for Urban Wildlife has recently published the 42-page, *A Guide to Urban Wildlife Management* by authors Daniel L. Leedy and Lowell Adams. The primary purposes of this guide are to provide interested citizens, including individual homeowners, youths, and community leaders, with guidance and ideas on how to plan and manage for urban and suburban wildlife. In addition, it suggests how to enhance recreational, aesthetic, educational and economic benefits associated with good diversified habitats and sound fish and wildlife management.

Many of our urban-suburban residents feel the need for communing with nature close at hand and appreciate a natural setting in which wildlife is an important part. This guide will help provide an understanding and appreciation of wildlife and ecological relationships right in one's own backyard or urban-suburban community.

Although the guide focuses primarily on management and appreciation of fish and wildlife in suburban and urban areas, the procedures and principles set forth are generally applicable elsewhere.

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program has acquired a quantity of these guides and is making them available at the reduced price of \$2.00 each. To receive your copy send a check or money order to Endangered and Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625. Please include a self-addressed 7½ x 10½ envelope with 90 cents in postage to cover the cost of mailing.



ORDER FORM

Please send me the following Wildlife Habitat Conservation Teacher's Pac:

	QUANTITY	EACH	TOTAL
HABITAT PACS			
Urban Areas		5.00	
Freshwater Marshes		5.00	
Beaches, Dunes, and Barrier Islands		5.00	
ISSUE PACS			
Wetland Conservation and Uses		5.00	
Endangered Species		5.00	
Migrating Birds		5.00	
Hunting & Wildlife Conflicts		5.00	
Wildlife Conflicts		5.00	
Postage/Handling			3.00
Total remittance			

SEND TO:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Send Order and Remittance to:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR URBAN WILDLIFE, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, Maryland 21044

OSPREY REINTRODUCTION PLANNED FOR NORTH JERSEY

Continued from Page 1

County owned by the City of Newark and managed by the Newark Watershed Corporation. Towers are currently being erected with materials and equipment donated by New Jersey Bell Telephone. Six Osprey chicks will be placed on two separate towers in enclosed platforms when they are 5 weeks old and will be fed and monitored daily until they are ready to fly. This hacking procedure is the same technique that has been used with the Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle.

The Osprey has already made a dramatic comeback in New Jersey coastal areas thanks to the efforts of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program. In fact, the management of the coastal Osprey population has been so successful that the Osprey was officially taken off the state's endangered species list on May 6, 1985 and reclassified as threatened.

The Osprey, however, has not done as well in re-establishing itself as a breeding resident of North Jersey lakes. Consequently, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program reintroduction plan will insure that this bird will reclaim its historical niche as a breeding species on North Jersey lakes. ■



ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program is pleased to announce that the 1984 Annual Report is now available. The publication summarizes important research, management and public education efforts conducted by the Program during 1984. To receive your free copy of the report send 73 cents (in stamps only) for postage, to:

Annual Report
Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife
Endangered and Nongame Species Program
CN 400
Trenton, N.J. 08625.

EAGLE PROJECT UPDATE *Continued from Page 4*

greatly increase the chances that both chicks will survive to fledge," says Warren Kell who heads the project.

The adult circled high above the 80 foot pond pine tree as biologist Larry Niles climbed to the nest to place the young eagles. Within a dozen or so minutes, the adults returned and began brooding and feeding the young birds.

The nest will be monitored by Endangered and Nongame Species Program personnel until the young eagles fledge around mid to late June. Biologists will visit the nest one last time prior to fledging to place identifying leg bands on the birds. ■

ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM

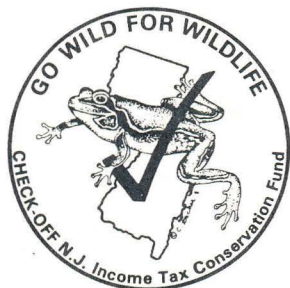
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